

What is claimed is:

1. A method for linking multiple identities from a single service, the method comprising:

for a user of a single service having multiple identities within the single service, authenticating a primary identity having a first buddy list associated with an account;

authenticating a secondary identity having a second buddy list associated with the account; and

creating an association between the primary identity and the secondary identity, wherein the primary identity and the secondary identity simultaneously share a common graphical user interface such that the primary identity interacts with the first buddy list and the secondary identity interacts with the second buddy list using the common graphical user interface.

2. The method as in claim 1 wherein:

authenticating the primary identity includes using a first password to authenticate the primary identity; and

authenticating the secondary identity includes using a second password to authenticate the secondary identity.

3. The method as in claim 2 wherein the first password and the second password are the same.

4. The method as in claim 2 wherein the first password and the second password are different.

5. The method as in claim 1 wherein:

authenticating the primary identity includes using a SecureID to authenticate the primary identity; and

authenticating the secondary identity includes using a SecureID to authenticate the secondary identity.

6. The method as in claim 1 wherein creating the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity includes using a one-way link configuration to create the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity.

7. The method as in claim 1 wherein creating the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity includes using a bi-directional-link configuration to create the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity.

8. The method as in claim 1 wherein creating the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity includes using a star-link configuration to create the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity.

9. The method as in claim 1 wherein creating the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity includes using a mesh-link configuration to create the association between the primary identity and the secondary identity.

10. The method as in claim 1 the primary identity is a part of a first domain and the secondary identity is a part of a second domain that differs from the first domain.

11. The method as in claim 1 further comprising setting preferences for the primary identity, wherein setting the preferences for the primary identity also sets the preferences for the secondary identity.

12. The method as in claim 1 further comprising:
setting first preferences for the primary identity; and
setting second preferences for the secondary identity.

13. The method as in claim 1 wherein the first buddy list and the second buddy list include one or more common buddies listed on both the first buddy list and the second buddy list.

14. The method as in claim 1 wherein the single service enables linking multiple identities within the single service so as to enable presence of one to be reflected based on a login of another of the multiple identities.

15. A method for enabling communications by a user having multiple identities, the method comprising:

displaying a common graphical user interface including a list for each of the multiple identities, the list including other identities with whom the multiple identities are used to communicate;

enabling selection of a source identity from among multiple identities using a common graphical user interface for the identities from which to initiate an electronic communication, wherein the multiple identities are from a single electronic communication service;

enabling selection of a buddy from a list of buddies associated with the source identity using the common graphical user interface to send the electronic communication; and

sending the electronic communication to the buddy such that the electronic communication is identified to the buddy as being sent from the source identity.

16. The method as in claim 15 wherein the multiple identities are linked using linking logic based on a remote server.

17. The method as in claim 16 further comprising offering the user a list of potential identities to which a link from the multiple identities may be created, wherein the list of potential identities is created based on relationships between the potential identities and the multiple identities known to exist within the remote server.

18. The method as in claim 15 further comprising receiving a response to the electronic communication from the buddy addressed to the source identity.

19. The method as in claim 15 further comprising:

logging on to a communications system using a first identity that differs from the source identity; and

in response to logging on to the communications system using the first identity, automatically being logged on to the communications system for the source identity.

20. The method as in claim 15 further comprising displaying the multiple linked identities in the common graphical user interface.

21. The method as in claim 20 further comprising displaying lists of buddies associated with each of the multiple linked identities in the common graphical user interface.

22. The method as in claim 15 further comprising, responsive to an addition of an identity to the list for one of the multiple identities, adding the identity to the lists for the other multiple identities.

23. A graphical user interface comprising one or more window interfaces that are structured and arranged to enable:

a display portion configured to make perceivable multiple identities for a user, wherein one or more buddy lists each having one or more buddies are associated with each of the multiple identities, wherein the multiple identities are from a single electronic communication service; and

a visual indicator that is configured to display the current logon status of the buddies from the buddy lists of the multiple identities; and

wherein at least one buddy from one of the buddy lists associated with a first of the multiple identities is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user, and

wherein at least one buddy from one of the buddy lists associated with a second of the multiple identities also is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user.

24. The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable a display of an instant message addressed to one of the multiple identities.

25. The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of all the identities of the user in response to a sign on of one of the identities.

26. The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of all the identities of the user in response to a sign on of any one of the identities.

27. The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for each of the multiple identities.

28. The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user designate preferences for one of the multiple identities, wherein the preferences are applied globally to the other identities of the user.